

COVID-19 Support and Resources

[U.S. Department of Commerce Announces Availability of \\$1.5 Billion in CARES Act Funds to Aid Communities Impacted by the Coronavirus Pandemic](#)

The CARES Act provided the U.S. Commerce Department's [Economic Development Administration \(EDA\)](#) with \$1.5 billion for economic development assistance programs to help communities prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus. EDA makes grants to state and local governmental entities, institutions of higher education, not for-profit entities, and federally recognized Tribes. Read [EDA CARES Act Recovery Assistance Frequently Asked Questions](#) for additional information.

[HHS Awards More than Half Billion Dollars Across the Nation to Expand COVID-19 Testing](#)

HHS/HRSA awarded nearly \$583 million to 1,385 HRSA-funded health centers in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and eight U.S. territories to expand COVID-19 testing. Nearly 88 percent of HRSA-funded health centers report testing patients, with more than 65 percent offering walk-up or drive-up testing. Health centers are currently providing more than 100,000 weekly COVID-19 tests in their local communities.

** As mentioned in a prior weekly (May 4) faith and community organizations are partnering with [Community Health Centers](#) to host testing sites. [Find a Community Health Center](#).

[\\$900 Million in Funding for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program](#)

ACF released \$900 million in supplemental funding for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) for federal Fiscal Year (FY) 2020. The funding, appropriated under the CARES Act, is used to help "prevent, prepare for, or respond to" home energy needs surrounding the national emergency. The funding was disbursed to states, territories, and tribes.

[COVID-19 Contact Tracing Training Guidance and Resources](#)

This document contains a sample training plan including training topics that may be helpful for state and local public health jurisdictions to consider when designing their own training plan for COVID-19 contact tracers. The audience for this training include community health workers or volunteers with little or no experience conducting contact tracing.

**Note: Through the [COVID-19 Dislocated Workers Act](#), the DOL [provides additional flexibility](#) allowing grant awardees to use funds for contact tracing. Review grantees in your community [here](#).

[U.S. Chamber of Commerce's Interactive Map for Reopening](#)

In an effort to provide clarity on reopening guidance, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce debuted Wednesday an [interactive map](#) with state-specific information to help businesses navigate local rules and guidelines.

[HHS Updates FAQ document on the Provider Relief Fund](#)

Congress has appropriated \$100 billion to reimburse providers for lost revenues and increased expenses due to the coronavirus pandemic. Funds are being distributed by the HRSA and do not need to be repaid if certain terms and conditions are met. HHS also updated its FAQ document and its [methodology for the allocation](#) of the Provider Relief Fund.

HHS Community Health News

[HHS Announces Shipments of Donated Remdesivir for Hospitalized Patients with COVID-19](#)

HHS announced the allocation plan for the drug Remdesivir. The allocation is from a donation by Gilead Sciences, Inc. to the United States which was finalized on May 3, 2020. The donated doses of

the treatment, which received an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) from the FDA, will be used to treat hospitalized COVID-19 patients in areas of the country hardest hit by the pandemic.

Webinar: Mental Health in a Time of COVID-19 Webinar Series: Preparing Faith Leaders to Address the Challenge

TODAY as part of [Mental Health Month](#), please join us for Part 2, **Tues., May 12th at noon ET**. Register [here](#).

This webinar series addresses overwhelming stress the COVID-19 experience is placing on people and communities.

- **Part 1:** “Preparing Leaders to Address the Challenges,” (webcast April 28, 2020, [download the recording](#)).
- **Part 2:** “When Trauma, Fear, and Anxiety Become Overwhelming,” will air on May 12 at 12 pm ET. Register [here](#).
- **Part 3:** “Task-shifting to Address Increasing Challenges,” May 26 at 12 pm ET. *Registration opening soon.*
- **Part 4:** “Connecting Spirituality to Mental Health Services in the Midst of the Crisis,” June 9 at 12 pm ET. *Registration opening soon.*

Considerations for the Care and Treatment of Mental and Substance Use Disorders in the COVID-19 Epidemic

SAMHSA’s updated document includes considerations aimed at decreasing the likelihood of infection and viral transmission and providing for the behavioral health needs of patients. They have also updated their document with [technical and training resources](#) related to COVID-19.

Webinar: Rural Health and COVID-19

TODAY! Tues., May 12, 2020 4:00 p.m. ET, Register [here](#).

Delivering healthcare in rural communities presents unique challenges that have always required coordination and innovation. Now, more than ever, it is essential that rural communities and healthcare providers have access to the resources they need to combat COVID-19. Join this webinar discussing rural health-focused efforts by HHS and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Rural Health Information Hub Mental Health in a Pandemic Q&A

HRSA’s Rural Health Information Hub featured SAMHSA’s Mountain Plains Mental Health Technology Transfer Center subject matter experts discussing telehealth, economic insecurity, broadband, and mental health under COVID-19 and self-isolation. Sign up [here to get updates](#) from the Rural Health Information Hub.

CDC’s Community and Faith-Based Organizations: Plan, Prepare, and Respond

Offers ongoing mitigation, prevention, and support guidance, as well as the [FAQs](#) for administrators and leaders at community- and faith-based organizations.

ACF Hotlines/Helplines

The following Hotlines/Helplines supported by Administration for Children and Families (ACF) remain open and available to serve vulnerable populations:

- [National Domestic Violence Hotline](#) is a 24/7 confidential service that supports victims and survivors of domestic violence. Trained, experienced advocates offer support, crisis intervention information, educational services, and referral services in more than 200 languages.
- [StrongHearts Native Helpline](#) is a culturally-appropriate domestic violence and dating violence helpline for Native Americans, available every day from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. CT.
- [National Runaway Safeline](#) is a 24/7 hotline that serves as the national communication system for runaway and homeless youth (RHY) providing crisis intervention, information and referrals, and other resources. The hotline also has an online [Referral Directory](#) made up of anti-trafficking organizations and programs that offer emergency, transitional, or long-term services to victims and survivors of human trafficking.

[When to Wear Gloves](#)

For the general public, CDC recommends wearing gloves when you are cleaning or caring for someone who is sick. In most other situations, like running errands, wearing gloves is not necessary. Instead, practice everyday preventive actions like keeping social distance (at least 6 feet) from others, washing your hands with soap and water for 20 seconds (or using a hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol), and wearing a cloth face covering when you have to go out in public.

[Funeral Guidance for Individuals and Families](#)

To help prevent the spread of COVID-19 in communities, changes need to be made to the way funerals, visitations, and memorials for the deceased are held. This guidance provides strategies to protect yourself and others when you are grieving the loss of a loved one, supporting each other, making funeral arrangements, and participating in funeral services and visitations.

[HHS Partnership Center Resources](#)

The HHS Center for Faith and Opportunity Initiatives (aka [Partnership Center](#)) leads the department's efforts to build and support partnerships with faith-based and community organizations in order to better serve individuals, families and communities in need. All webinars hosted by the Partnerships Center are recorded and posted [online](#) covering a range of behavioral health topics in language that tailored to lay faith and community leaders.

Current Resources

- [COVID-19: Recommended Preventative Practices and FAQs for Faith-based and Community Leaders - PDF](#) (March 2020)
- [Considering Faith, Community, and Mental Health During the COVID-19 Crisis - PDF](#) (April 2020)
- [The Opioid Crisis Practical Toolkit: Helping Faith-based and Community Leaders Bring Hope and Healing - PDF](#) (4th Edition)
- [Faith & Community Roadmap to Recovery Support: Getting Back to Work - PDF](#) (March 2020)

As always, we remain grateful for your steadfast leadership around the country, with thanks, Heidi and the Partnership Center team